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PCS106 ASSIGNMENT

Religion is a set of beliefs, concerning the cause, nature and purpose of the universe, especially when considered as the creation of a superhuman agency or agencies usually involving devotional and ritual observation and often containing a moral code governing the conduct of human affairs.

Religion is also a specific fundamental set of beliefs and practices generally agreed upon by a number of persons or sects: the Christian religion, the Buddhist religion. (Reference definition of religion <https://www.dictionary.com>)

On the other hand conflict is a serious disagreement and argument about something important. If two people or groups are in conflict. They have had a serious disagreement or argument and have not yet reached agreement.

Conflict is the relationship between two or more individuals, parties and groups who feel or think that they have incompatible goals(Reference definition of conflict <https://www.collinsdictionary.com>).

Yes, I strongly agree that religion is a major source of conflict in Nigeria and across the world looking at some happenings in Nigeria and the world at large. There are many religions in Nigeria but the ones are Christianity and Islam.

Religious conflict in Nigeria goes as far back as 1953, and in the case of the town of Tafawa Balewa to 1948. The Igbo massacre of 1966 in the north that followed the counter-coup of the same year had as a dual cause the Igbo officers coup and pre-existing (sectarian) tensions between the Igbos and the local Muslims. This was a major factor in the Biafran secession and the resulting Civil War.

The 1980s saw an upsurge in violence due to the death of Mohammed Marwa (Maitatsine). In the same decade, the erstwhile military ruler of Nigeria, General Ibrahim Babangida enrolled Nigeria in the organization of the Islamic conference. This was a move which aggravated religious tensions in the country, particularly among the Christian community. In response, some in the Muslim community pointed out that certain other African member states have smaller proportions of Muslims as well as Nigeria's diplomatic relations with the Holy See.

In the 1980s, serious outbreaks between Christians and Muslims occurred in Kafanchan in Southern Kaduna state in a border area between the two religions propagated by extreme leaders who were able to rally a young, educated group of individuals who were able to rally a young, educated group of individuals who were feared that the nation would not be able to protect their religious group. The leaders were able to polarize their followers through speeches

and public demonstrations. The activities of some of these sects has in recent times led to the loss of lives and properties as they move about destroying government facilities which they see as legacies or replica of western cultures in their various communities these religious campaigns has seen an increase in gun battles between the members of these sects and security forces with loss of lives witnessed on both sides. Although direct conflicts between Christians and Muslim were rare, tensions did flare between the two groups as each group radicalised. There were clashes in October 1982 when Muslim zealots in kano were able to enforce their power in order to keep the Anglican house church from expanding its size and power based. They saw it as a threat to the nearby mosque even though the Anglican house church had been there forty years prior to the building of the mosque. Additionally there were two students groups in Nigeria who came into contestation. The fellowship of Christian students and the Muslim students society in one instance there was an evangelical campaign organised by the FCS and brought into question why one sect should dominate the campus of the Kafanchan. Colledge of education this quarrel accelerated to the point where the Muslim students organised protests around the city and culminated in the burning of a mosque at the Colledge the Christian majority at the college retaliated on March9. Twelve people died several mosques were burnt and a climate of fear was created. The retaliation was pre-planned.

In 1991,the German evangelist Reinhard Bonke attempted a crusade in kano, causing religious riot leading to deaths of about a dozen people.

Since the restoration of democracy in 1999, Christian governments have dominated the country at the federal level, while the Muslim-dominated Northern Nigeria states have implemented strict sharia law. Religious conflict between Muslims and Christians has erupted several times since 2000 for various reasons. Often causing riots with several thousands of victims on both sides. Since 2009,the islamist movement Boko Haram has fought an armed rebellion against the Nigerian military sacking villages and towns and taking thousands of lives in battles and massacres against Christians, students, and others deemed enemies of Islam.

The events of Abuja in 2000 and Jos in 2001 were riots between Christians and Muslims in Jos Nigeria about the appointment of a Muslim politician, Alhaji Muktar Mohammed, as local coordinator of the federal programme to fight poverty. Another such riot killed over 100 people in October 2001 in kano state. In 2002, the Nigerian journalist Isioma Daniel wrote an article that led to the demonstrations and violence that caused the deaths of over 200 in kaduna as well as a fatwa placed on her life. The 2002 miss world contest was moved from Abuja to London as a result. The rest of the 2000s decade would see inter-religious violence continue in Jos and kaduna. The reaction to the Mohammed cartoons brought about a series of violent protest in Nigeria. Clashes between the police claimed several lives with estimates ranging from 16 to more than a hundred. This led to reprisal attacks in the south of the country, particularly in onitsha more than a hundred lost their lives.

A religious war or holy war is a war primarily caused or justified by differences in religion in the modern period, debates are common over the extent to which religious, economic or ethnic

aspects of a conflict predominate in a given war. According to the Encyclopedia of wars out of all 1,763 known/recorded historical conflicts, 123 or 6-98%, had religion as their primary cause. Mathew whites the great Big book of horrible things gives religion as the cause of 11 of the world's 100 deadliest atrocities. In several conflicts including the Israeli Palestinian conflict, the Syrian Civil War and the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq religious elements are present but described as fundamentalism or religious extremism depending upon the observers sympathies. However, studies on these cases often conclude that ethnic animosities drive much of the conflicts.

Some historians argue that what is termed "religious wars" is a largely "western dichotomy" and a modern invention from the past few centuries, arguing that all wars that are classed as "religious" have secular (economic or political) ramifications. Similar opinions were expressed as early as the 1960s, during the seven years war, widely recognized to be "religious" in motivation, nothing that the warring factions were not necessarily split along confessional lines as much as along secular interests.

According to Jeffrey Borton Russell, numerous cases of supposed acts of religious wars such as the Thirty years war the french wars of religion, the Sri Lankan Civil War, 9/11 and other terrorist attacks the Bosnian war, and the Rwandan Civil War were all primarily motivated by social, political and economic issues rather than religion. For example in the thirty years war the dominant participant on the protestant side for much of the conflict was France, led by cardinal Richelieu. That is why religion has always been and will always be a source of conflict in Nigeria and in the world.

REF: (Religious violence in Nigeria-wikipedia <https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/religion>)

(Religious War-Wikipedia <https://en.m.wikipedia.org/Religion>)